



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A brush seal comprising:

a back plate;

a side plate;

a first set of bristles; and

a second set of bristles between said first set of bristles and said side plate, said second set of bristles having a length and abutting said first set of bristles at a point adjacent a joint between said back plate and said side plate and substantially along said length;

wherein said first set of bristles has a length greater than the length of said second set of bristles and said second set of bristles cooperating with said side plate to reduce windage effects on said first set of bristles.

2. (previously presented) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said second set of bristles are more rigid than said first set of bristles.

3. (previously presented) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein bristles in said second set have a larger diameter than bristles in said first set.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said sets of bristles have non-interfering lay angles.

6. (original) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein said first and second sets of bristles have first and second lay angles, respectively, and a difference between said first and second lay angles is between approximately -15° and 15° .

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said second set of bristles extends at least to said back plate.

9. (original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said first and second sets of bristles comprise separate bristle packs.

10. (original) The brush seal of claim 1, further comprising a windage cover.

11. (previously presented) A brush seal for sealing a gap between first and second components, comprising:

- a back plate;

- a side plate;

- a set of contacting bristles that engages the second component;

- a set of non-contacting bristles that extends towards, but does not engage, the second component, said set of non-contacting bristles having a length;

- wherein said set of non-contacting bristles resides between said set of contacting bristles and said side plate and abuts said set of contacting bristles substantially along a majority of said length; and

a windage cover attached to said side plate, said windage cover being spaced from said set of non-contacting bristles.

12. (original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said sets of bristles have non-interfering lay angles.

13. (original) The brush seal of claim 12, wherein said sets of bristles have first and second lay angles, respectively, and a difference between said first and second lay angles is between approximately -15° and 15° .

14. (original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said set of non-contacting bristles is more rigid than said set of contacting bristles.

15. (original) The brush seal of claim 14, wherein bristles in said set of non-contacting bristles have a diameter larger than bristles in said set of contacting bristles.

16. (cancelled)

17. (original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said set of contacting bristles and said set of non-contacting bristles comprise separate bristle packs.

18. (original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said non-contacting bristles extends at least to said back plate.

19 - 27. (cancelled)

28. (new) The brush seal according to claim 1, wherein said first set of bristles abuts said back plate so that said back plate supports said first set of bristles.

29. (new) The brush seal according to claim 11, wherein said set of contacting bristles abuts said back plate so that said back plate supports said set of contacting bristles.